

Westwater Canyon Information Sheet

www.blm.gov/ut/st/en/fo/moab/recreation/River_Recreation/westwater_canyon.html

General Info

Westwater Canyon is the first whitewater stretch on the Colorado River in Utah. The canyon is 17 miles long and includes class IV rapids, is challenging at all water levels, and is only recommended for experienced boaters. All trips through Westwater Canyon must be self-reliant.

Permits Required

Permits are required year-round for commercial and private use of Westwater Canyon. Please visit the above web site for detailed information regarding the permitting process or call (435) 259-7012, Monday through Friday, 8 a.m. to noon, except federal holidays. All boaters must adhere to the River Use Stipulations which are posted on the BLM web site. **Permit fees are NON-REFUNDABLE.**

Westwater Ranger Station

The Bureau of Land Management's Moab Field Office manages Westwater Canyon. A contact station and ranger residence is located at the put-in. River Rangers conduct permit and equipment checks, provide information, and patrol the canyon. There are five first-come, first-served campsites at the put-in for public use; no fee is charged. There is no trash service but drinking water is available March-November. Do not depend on this water source for your trip's water needs as the system is not always operational. The closest services (i.e., gas, telephone) are in Mack, CO and Thompson Springs, UT, both are located along I-70.

River Flow

The river typically peaks around 20,000 CFS in late May or early June and recedes throughout the summer and fall to less than 3,000 CFS. A high-water trip (above 13,000 CFS) can take as little as 4 hours whereas a low water trip (1,000 to 5,000 CFS) can take 10+ hours. For daily flow updates, go to: waterdata.usgs.gov/co/nwis/rt (For USGS 09163500: Colorado River near Colorado-Utah State Line).

Camping in the Canyon

Permittees may choose to run Westwater Canyon as either a day or overnight trip. Due to limited space, boaters may camp only one night in the canyon. River Rangers assign campsites in the order of launch (first come, first served) and according to the size of the group.

Dogs

Dogs are NOT allowed in Westwater Canyon. Although leashed dogs are allowed at the put-in area, dogs cannot be left unattended at the put-in or take-out while you are on the river.

Shuttle Information

The round-trip shuttle from Westwater Ranger Station to Cisco Landing takes approximately 2 hours; refer to the map on the back for directions. Companies that currently provide shuttle services to Westwater boaters are listed on the BLM web site.

Emergency Services

Grand County Sheriff's Office (435) 259-8115 has search and rescue jurisdiction in Westwater Canyon; Utah Division of Parks and Recreation (435) 259-3750 must be notified of all major incidents that occur on the river.

Additional Information

River guidebooks, maps, and related materials are available through Canyonlands Natural History Association (CNHA) by calling (800) 840-8978 or at www.cnha.org.